

**REMARKS**

The undersigned and examiner Thomas had a telephone interview on this case on July 14 2006. During this conversation it was argued that the current claims have at least 3 structural distinctions over the product of Brumlik.

- 1) The randomly shaped nibs of Brumlik are randomly adhered to its linear members 52. This would not be the case with the hook elements of the invention hook strands. The invention hook elements are formed from ridges that are simultaneously formed with the strand backing in a die plate. As such each and every hook element along a face of the strands are all formed from the same ridge and would have the same cross sectional dimensional shape and same angular relationship to the strand backing. This is an inevitable result of the claimed process.
- 2) The nibs of Brumlik, if they are heat bonded to the linear elements, would have heat bond or weld lines at the nib interface with the linear member 52. This is a structural feature. There would be no such structural feature in the invention strands and hook elements which are extruded at the same time.
- 3) The strand backing of the invention would be oriented but because the hook elements are on the strand backing prior to this orientation step the orientation could never be uniform along the length of the strand. Namely the strand backing, where there are hook elements, would either be nonoriented or oriented to a very low extent. In Brumlik it the linear elements are oriented it would be uniform orientation as the linear elements are oriented prior to attaching the nibs.
- 4) Another point, not mentioned in the telephone interview, is that there is no disclosure in Brumlik of forming the linear element and the nibs of the same material.

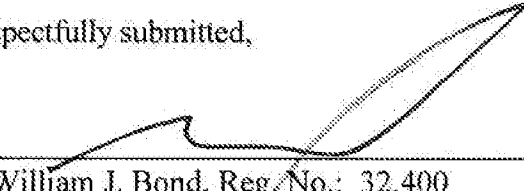
It is submitted that these distinctions place the case in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 1-19, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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